**2009 (Rio Rancho, New Mexico)**

A fairly new Rotary Club—dedicated to the motto of "Service Above Self" and focusing on youth and the community—was searching for a unique niche.

Given the 2 new hospitals being built in Rio Rancho, a well-publicized national nursing shortage, and several members who were health care providers and administrators, the Club decided to raise money and award scholarships to nursing students who were from Rio Rancho/Sandoval County, had financial need, were in good academic standing, and showed involvement in community service. The club wanted to mirror Rotary's high standards and assist in preparing and retaining excellent Registered Nurses to care for Rio Rancho residents.

A gala dinner was planned. Corporate and individual sponsors were sought from the business and health care communities. Silent auction items were solicited from club members and the community. Financial aid officers from accredited local nursing schools distributed scholarship notices and criteria to their students—these were also published on the Club's webpage. A committee comprised of club and community members evaluated candidates and prizes were awarded at the dinner.

To date we have awarded over **$100,000** to **more than 50 students**. Some of our awardees who have gone on to attain higher educational levels and enhance their abilities to provide health care now assist us in evaluating our applicants. One has repaid the scholarship monies she received—which were reinvested in the scholarship process.

**For 2020**

Awardees have returned to the Club, expressed gratitude and explained their employment and further educational plans. In January 2019 the scholarships totaled over $10,000. We have worked closely with Sandoval County's Schuman Foundation, which has enabled us to award even more dollars to deserving students. Plans are to increase the number of students and amount of funds awarded every year. In addition, the Club's Foundation has been able to expand and help other projects given matching funds from Rotary International.

Rust Presbyterian Hospital is expanding while Sandoval Regional Medical Center and Lovelace Westside Hospital continue to offer new care lines. The nursing shortage will continue to exist in varying forms (need for more nurses, need for higher educational levels, aging demographics), and Rio Rancho Rotary Sunrise will continue to focus on improving healthcare in New Mexico.

Your assistance with a sponsorship, a generous donation, or a significant silent auction item will help us expand our scholarship program and contribute to our communities with "Service Above Self."

Further information about donation options, as well as application forms for the scholarship and online registration for the Gala on January 25, 2020 may be found on our website at www.rioranchorotarysunrise.org.

**Questions? Email us at rrrsunrise@gmail.com or**
**Kathleen HolmesCates kholmescates@gmail.com)**
**Or Susan Fox, PhD, RN (**susanlittellfox@hotmail.com**)**

**GALA TICKETS: JANUARY 25, 2020**

**www.rioranchorotarysunrise.org**

**INDIVIDUAL TICKETS: $100**

**SPONSORSHIPS:**

**Platinum: $5000 Silver: $1500**

**Gold: $2500 Bronze: $750**

**SILENT AUCTION ITEMS OR DONATIONS:**

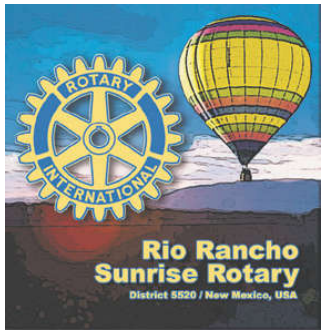
**Contact us via the emails below. We will gladly come and pick up items!!**

**Richard Bruce – riobruce1977@gmail.com**

**Kathleen Holmes Cates - kholmescates@gmail.com**

**Susan Fox – sfox@salud.unm.edu**

# 11th Annual DeGroot-Akins




# NURSING SCHOLARSHIP GALA

## January 25, 2020

**Santa Ana Star Casino Hotel**
**Jemez Canyon Dam Road, Santa Ana Pueblo**

**Hosted by Rotary Club of Rio Rancho Sunrise**